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Programme 10
Environment

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* A/55/50.

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Overall orientation

10.1 The overall objective of the programme is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

10.2 The mandate for the programme derives from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Environment Secretariat and the Environment Fund. The Governing Council of UNEP, in its decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997, redefined and clarified the role and mandate of UNEP in the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP. By its resolution S/19-2 of 28 June 1997, the Assembly endorsed the new mandate of UNEP. The Assembly elaborated further on the mandate of UNEP in its resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999.

10.3 Building on and consistent with the Nairobi Declaration and the decisions of the Governing Council adopted at its twentieth session, the overall strategy of UNEP for achieving the programme's objectives is broken down into seven functional, interdependent and complementary subprogrammes. The main elements of the overall strategy include: (a) filling the information and knowledge gap on critical environmental issues through more comprehensive assessments; (b) identifying and further developing the use of appropriate integrated policy measures in tackling the root causes of major environmental concerns; and (c) mobilizing action for better integration of international action to improve the environment, particularly in relation to regional and multilateral agreements, as well as United Nations system-wide collaborative arrangements.

10.4 The programme is implemented by the UNEP secretariat under the intergovernmental guidance of the Governing Council and in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations.

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

Objective

10.5 The objective is to improve decision-making at the international and national levels through the provision of reliable and timely information on global environmental trends and conditions and emerging issues.

Strategy

10.6 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division of Environmental Assessment and Early Warning. In collaboration with appropriate United Nations and external partners, the subprogramme will alert the world to emerging problems by initiating periodic assessments of priority environmental issues; strengthening linkages among global, regional and national environmental observing programmes; and providing authoritative information for policy formulation and implementation. It will stimulate Governments and the international community to take action on environmental issues by: (a) promoting the availability of and enhancing access to relevant scientific information needed by decision makers to better protect and enhance the environment; (b) assessing environmental conditions and threats in order to alert policy makers and facilitate the development of alternative impact-reduction strategies; (c) devising strategies and contributing to early warning so as to better cope with emerging or recently recognized environmental threats; and (d) identifying emerging issues.

10.7 In addition, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation will continue to compile and distribute scientific data on the impact of ionizing radiation on human beings and the environment.

Expected accomplishments

10.8 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) the production of timely, credible and reliable global assessments and demonstration of support for and facilitation of the completion of correspondingly high-quality regional and national environmental assessments and their promotion; (b) enhanced coordination of environmental assessments and early

warning through an international cooperative assessment framework and process; (c) increased ability to identify major emerging environmental problems, threats and emergencies and to prepare appropriate strategies and methodologies; and (d) the effective dissemination and exchange of environmental data and information among countries to support decision-making in key environmental and sustainable development areas.

Indicators of achievement

10.9 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) feedback from Governments, individually or through intergovernmental bodies, and from international organizations and other relevant organizations; (b) appropriate capacity to enable timely environmental assessments to be undertaken on the basis of state-of-the-art scientific and technical analytical tools (e.g., institutional networking and development of methodologies, databases, environmental indicators, mechanisms for software tools and early warning) put in place and operated as needed; (c) the fulfilment in a timely manner of requests for support and/or backstopping in the development of assessment information products and services; (d) the use of conclusions and recommendations contained in results of a survey to be carried out in 2003 in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies; (e) the focusing of assessment information products and services on stakeholders and decision makers, and the adoption of recommendations in those assessments for further implementation and/or follow-up by Governments, key multilateral institutions and/or other stakeholders (e.g., Global Environment Facility) as relevant.

Subprogramme 2
Policy development and law

Objective

10.10 The objective of the subprogramme is to enable members of the international community to develop integrated and coherent policy responses to environmental problems and to improve compliance with and enforcement of legal instruments.

Strategy

10.11 Substantive responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Division of Environmental Policy Development and Law. In pursuit of the objective, the subprogramme will: assess the performance of environmental policies and develop policy strategies; promote the integration of environmental, economic, social and institutional aspects into governmental and intergovernmental decision-making and at all levels of the United Nations system in order to achieve sustainable development; strengthen intergovernmental dialogue for consensus-building on the root causes of major environmental problems; provide a forum for policy dialogue and information exchange; strengthen dialogue between various stakeholders for building synergy between environmental policy and social and economic development policies; and provide assistance to Member States in identifying the need for and the development of national policy instruments, especially those which implement international agreements. The subprogramme will also promote the participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in environmental management, and will further mainstream a gender perspective into the full range of UNEP activities and subprogrammes.

Expected accomplishments

10.12 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) the implementation of a new strategic environmental law programme for the first decade of the millennium; (b) the updating and improvement of a global environmental agenda on the basis of a sound assessment of environmental trends and conditions at the national, regional and global levels; (c) the improvement of United Nations system-wide coordination of the global environmental agenda; (d) the initiation of new negotiations and the conclusion of agreements on certain emerging issues; (e) the implementation of an improved financial strategy to respond to the funding needs of UNEP; (f) the strengthening of partnerships with Governments as well as non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society; and (g) the establishment and implementation of a programme in the field of compliance and enforcement of policy, legal, economic and other instruments.

Indicators of achievement

10.13 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the adoption by the Governing Council of a new strategic environmental law programme; (b) feedback from Governments and other stakeholders on the global environmental agenda; (c) the number of policy responses and policy options initiated on emerging issues and the number of agreements concluded on such issues; (d) the adoption by Governments of the financial strategy for UNEP and the observation of improvement in the financial situation of UNEP; (e) the number of projects or programmatic activities implemented relating to compliance and enforcement of policy, legal, economic and other instruments; and (f) an increase in the number of non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of the civil society participating in the work of UNEP as partners.

Subprogramme 3
Policy implementation

Objective

10.14 The objective is to improve environmental management capabilities and enhance government capacity to implement environmental policy.

Strategy

10.15 The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. The strategy will include: (a) the assessment of global, regional, subregional and country needs and the determination of appropriate options for policy implementation; (b) the selection and design, in collaboration with partners, of specific pilot projects and initiatives with potential demonstrative value as success stories or best practices with a view to their implementation; (c) collaboration with other subprogrammes in the identification and design of appropriate technical cooperation activities; (d) the provision of assistance to Governments in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; (e) the provision of assistance to Governments in strengthening their capacity to comply with the relevant multilateral environmental agreements to which they are party; and (f) the enhancement of emergency response networks in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the provision of assistance to Governments in building emergency response capacity, in responding to specific emergencies, in evaluating national and subregional capacity for emergency response and in identifying national and subregional needs; and provision of organized technical and other services for capacity-building in the field of emergency response.

Expected accomplishments

10.16 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) the improvement of the knowledge base, expertise and management tools of governmental and other relevant institutions to better equip them to implement environmental policy; (b) the development of innovative arrangements for technical cooperation in the utilization of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies and their initial implementation; (c) the implementation by Governments of institutional arrangements for providing improved responsiveness to environmental emergencies through which required resources are better mobilized, international actions are efficiently coordinated and measures to mitigate emergency situations are effectively implemented; (d) the undertaking of national and international measures to implement the agreements expected to emanate from the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the global conference to be held in 2000; and (e) the enhancement of arrangements for the enforcement of and compliance with relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Indicators of achievement

10.17 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) feedback from Governments and other relevant institutions to which assistance was provided through, *inter alia*, training workshops, training of experts or provision of management tools, guidelines and information materials; (b) satisfaction on the part of Governments and other bodies concerned regarding institutional arrangements put in place for facilitating improved responsiveness to environmental emergencies and the number of institutional arrangements developed and advisory services provided for such purpose; and (c) the number of requests received for advisory services on the implementation of agreements under the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of

the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the 2000 conference.

Subprogramme 4
Technology, industry and economics

Objective

10.18 The objective is to increase the capacity of decision makers in Government and industry, as well as local authorities, to develop and adopt policies, strategies and practices that are cleaner and safer, make efficient use of natural resources, ensure safe management of chemicals and incorporate environmental costs so as to reduce pollution and risks for human beings and the environment

Strategy

10.19 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics. The subprogramme will promote the development, use and transfer of environmental policies and related environmentally sound technologies, of economic instruments and of managerial practices and other tools that will assist in ensuring environmentally sound decision-making and in building corresponding capacities.

10.20 More specifically, the strategy will include: (a) promoting the understanding and knowledge of environmental issues related to industrial and urban development, trade and the economy, sustainable consumption patterns, use of natural resources (particularly energy and water) and chemicals; (b) building capacity through a participatory "learn-by-doing" approach to addressing countries' economic, environmental and social needs according to national and regional development priorities; (c) developing consensus on policies and tools needed to respond to the problems identified, such as the new Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the future legally binding international instrument on persistent organic pollutants, codes of practice, economic instruments and so on; (d) through information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building, providing technical support to the chemicals agenda and facilitating the effective and integrated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, with a particular focus on the UNEP-administered conventions, the Rotterdam Convention (jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the future persistent organic pollutants convention; (e) facilitating the widespread transfer, adoption and use of technology in urban areas, freshwater basins and industry sectors in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; (f) assisting countries and industries in the production of cleaner and safer methods of production and the development of more sustainable products and services; (g) promoting practical and cost-effective approaches to the assessment of trade policies and to the implementation of environmentally sustainable trade policies; (h) demonstrating, in association with other partners active at the local level, the effectiveness of policies and tools suggested, while involving national experts in the formulation and implementation of UNEP-sponsored projects; and (i) making full use of the complementarity between the work of UNEP and the activities carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the field of trade and environment, aiming at strengthening coherence in the rules and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO agreements.

Expected accomplishments

10.21 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) greater worldwide use of technologies, products and services that are cleaner and safer; (b) more efficient use of energy and water; (c) reduced pollution and risks for human beings and their environments; (d) identification of means of minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of economic policy, especially trade liberalization and investment policies; (e) identification of win-win situations to balance concurrent economic and environmental gains; and (f) adherence to the goals of the International Declaration on Cleaner Production.

Indicators of achievement

10.22 The indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of countries, organizations and industries adopting policies, regulations or codes that require cleaner and safer production practices, products and services; (b) the number of cases in which renewable energy technologies are introduced and used in developing countries; (c) the use by industry of

energy audits as a component of overall cleaner production/environmental management systems approaches; (d) the number of countries and industries commencing or strengthening programmes on awareness of and preparedness for emergencies at the local level or the equivalent and the number of companies adopting environmental management systems; (e) the number of environmentally responsible investment patterns employed by the private sector and the development and use of environmental procedures and practices; (f) the number of partnership agreements developed and concluded with sectoral role players, accompanied by the expression by partners of confidence in UNEP or satisfaction in UNEP services; and (g) the number of signatures to the International Declaration on Cleaner Production.

Subprogramme 5
Regional cooperation and representation

Objective

10.23 The objective is to ensure that regional concerns, priorities and perspectives are taken fully into account in the development of UNEP policies from the programme planning stage to the implementation stage and that decisions of the UNEP Governing Council are effectively implemented in the regions.

Strategy

10.24 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division of Regional Cooperation and Representation. The strategy will address the unique circumstances of the respective regions and include the following: (a) development of regional perspectives and positions on major environmental issues and trends and contribution to the formulation of response strategies; (b) provision of UNEP headquarters with assessments of environmental trends and conditions at the regional and national levels and the nature and scope of government policy and programmatic responses at the national and regional levels; (c) promotion of activities that disseminate new concepts and approaches for dealing with specific environmental problems in and between regions; (d) promotion of intergovernmental dialogue on environmental issues at the regional level; and (e) promotion of and support for subregional and regional cooperation programmes on the environment and provision of assistance to Governments at their request.

Expected accomplishments

10.25 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) having successfully addressed major environmental issues of crucial importance in the economic development of the countries in question; (b) more effective regional policy responses to global and regional environmental issues; (c) increased transfer and application of best practices in one region to other regions; and (d) increased capacity in the legal, policy and institutional areas to address emerging environmental concerns and issues at the national and regional levels.

Indicators of achievement

10.26 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of active forums and associated bodies dealing with regional environmental issues and setting regional priorities; (b) actions taken by regional forums to implement UNEP priorities at the regional level and the extent of UNEP contributions to the implementation of the priorities adopted by the regional forums; (c) the adoption of new operative agreements with subregional and regional partners and agencies participating in regional programmes; and (d) the expression of confidence in UNEP services in the regions by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Governing Council and/or the regional forums.

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

Objective

10.27 The objective of the subprogramme is to enhance linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions (with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned) and to strengthen the capacity of Governments to implement the conventions to which they are party.

Strategy

10.28 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division of Environmental Conventions. The strategy will include: (a) improving the collaboration between UNEP and the secretariats of the conventions and related international agreements and processes through consultative processes at the policy, scientific and programmatic levels; developing joint thematic programming proposals in the areas of common interest and, subject to the approval of the respective governing bodies of such proposals, undertaking joint thematic programming exercises; and supporting the implementation of the jointly identified components of the work programmes of the conventions and related international agreements and processes, which are complementary to the programme of work of UNEP; (b) organizing consultations with the secretariats of the conventions and related international agreements and processes, other United Nations bodies, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and civil society in order to explore possibilities for collaborative actions to reinforce the implementation of the components of the work programmes of multilateral environmental conventions and related international agreements and processes; (c) assisting Governments and the secretariats of conventions and related international agreements and processes in conformity with decisions of the respective governing bodies; (d) coordinating within UNEP the planning, implementation and monitoring of the projects developed to follow up the decisions of the governing bodies of relevant multilateral environmental conventions and related international agreements and processes; and (e) improving access to and dissemination of information on relevant multilateral environmental conventions in order to raise awareness among decision makers and the public on such conventions.

Expected accomplishments

10.29 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) enhanced coordination and greater cost-effectiveness in the implementation of the UNEP-administered environment-related conventions; and (b) enhanced ability of Governments to meet their obligations under the conventions.

Indicators of achievement

10.30 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) new or expanded arrangements and/or modalities of coordination between UNEP and the secretariats of the conventions administered by UNEP in the areas of common interest; and (b) the number of countries receiving assistance from UNEP and the number of areas covered by such assistance.

Subprogramme 7
Communications and public information

Objective

10.31 The objectives of this subprogramme are to increase awareness of environmental issues and the UNEP programme of work, to strengthen cooperation among all sectors of society and actors involved in the formulation and implementation of the international environmental agenda and to strengthen partnerships with Governments, the media and other concerned parties in order to enhance access to environmental information.

Strategy

10.32 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Communications and Public Information Branch. This subprogramme will promote and assist the participation of people in environmental management through the sharing of information and increasing understanding of environmental issues. The subprogramme will generate public information materials and increase awareness through media communications and public relations. Activities in the areas of publications, Web publishing, interactive use of the Internet and multimedia technologies, audio-visual products, programmes for children and youth, environment and sporting activities, library services and public enquiries will form elements of the subprogramme's strategy. The subprogramme will have a strong bearing on programme-wide activities by instilling a communications culture in all programme divisions and in the regional and outposted offices in close cooperation with United Nations agencies, Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Expected accomplishments

10.33 Expected accomplishments would include: (a) heightened environmental awareness among Governments, civil society, youth, learning institutions and the public leading to new environmental actions and initiatives at all levels of society; (b) increased exchange of information and closer cooperation with the global media, which are instrumental in influencing public perceptions and actions; and (c) increased royalties and sales revenues from publications.

Indicators of achievement

10.34 Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the number of UNEP web site visits, including to the *Our Planet* magazine web site; (b) the number of public information and technical enqueries; (c) the extent of media coverage of UNEP programme activities, special events, such as World Environment Day, the Clean-Up the World campaign, the Global 500 awards, the Sasakawa Environment Prize and the international photographic competition, and programmes for children and youth, environment and sporting activities and so on; (d) the degree of feedback from the public in the form of press clippings, viewership and multimedia coverage and enqueries; and (e) wider distribution and better marketing of UNEP publications.

Legislative mandates

Programme 10
Environment

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21
53/242	Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements
54/216	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme
54/217	Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 6)
54/218	Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly
54/225	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (subprogrammes 3 and 6)

Governing Council decisions

19/1	Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme
SS.V/2	Revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme
20/3	Programme for the development and periodic review of environmental law beyond the year 2000 (subprogrammes 2 and 3)
20/4	Promotion of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (subprogrammes 2 and 3)
20/17	Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements
20/19	Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session (subprogrammes 2-4 and 10.6)
20/22	Outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (subprogrammes 2, 4 and 6)

20/24 International action to protect health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument (subprogrammes 2 and 4)

20/25 Freshwater (subprogrammes 2 and 3)

20/27 Support to Africa (subprogrammes 1-6)

20/28 Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (subprogrammes 1-3 and 6)

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

General Assembly resolution

54/66 Effects of atomic radiation

Governing Council decisions

20/1 Global Environment Outlook

20/5 Reform of INFOTERRA to ensure better public access to environmental information

Subprogramme 2
Policy development and law

General Assembly resolution

54/31 Oceans and the law of the sea

Governing Council decisions

20/6 Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building

20/12 Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system

20/33 Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme

Subprogramme 3
Policy implementation

General Assembly resolutions

51/189 Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

54/224 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Governing Council decision

20/8	Further improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

Subprogramme 4
Technology, industry and economics

Governing Council decisions

19/13 B	Chemicals management: further measures to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals
19/13 C	Chemicals management: international action to protect human health and the environment through measures which will reduce and/or eliminate emissions and discharges of persistent organic pollutants, including the development of an international legally binding instrument
20/23	Chemicals management
20/29	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in the key areas of economics, trade and financial services

Subprogramme 5
Regional cooperation and representation

Governing Council decision

20/39	Functioning of the regional offices and proposed measures for the strengthening of regionalization and decentralization

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

General Assembly resolutions

54/221	Convention on Biological Diversity
54/222	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Governing Council decisions

20/10	Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
20/18	Environmental conventions
20/26	Biosafety